

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 29, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 11-21 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 11-21 were rejected. Claims 7, and 10 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 14 and 20 have been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 22 and 23 have been added. New Claim 22 is similar to dependent claim 20 but refers to independent claim 1. New Claim 23 includes similar limitations of independent claim 1 and claim 20. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, and 14-21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, and 14-21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, to further prosecution, Applicant amends Claims 1 and 14 to overcome these rejections, and respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1 and 14 as amended. The amendment of claims 1 and 14 uses the exact terms as recited on page 8, lines 28-29. Thus, Applicant believes that these claims are clearly supported by the specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13-17, and 19-21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. 1,083,599 filed by Georg Fromme et al. (“Fromme”). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, “the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is

contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art as anticipatory by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected Claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present Claims.

To more clearly define that the connecting regions according to the independent claims are arranged in between adjacent substrate regions, Applicant amended the independent claims accordingly. Fromme clearly shows that the elements 32 are not arranged in between the substrate regions but rather above the substrate regions. Thus, Fromme does not anticipate independent claim 1 and 14 as amended.

Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent Claims are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claims to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicant reserves the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and does not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

The present independent claims include the limitation.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4-6, 11, 12, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fromme as applied to Claims 1-3, and 14 above, and further in view of Japanese Publication 2001-118987 filed by Naruse Mikio ("Mikio"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicant does not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent Claims 4-6, 11, 12, and 18 are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claims 1 and 14 to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicant reserves the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and does not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

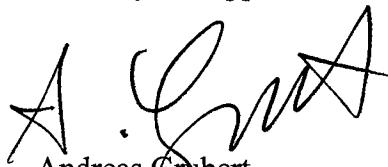
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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